



Materials Approved for Use in Organic Production and Handling

In order to comply with National Organic Standards, producers and handlers must use materials in compliance with the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances, Subpart G, §205.600 through §205.606 (see attached copy). Please refer to the National List to determine which products are allowed or prohibited for use in organic production and handling.

Because it is difficult to determine which products can be used in organic crop production, WSDA has created the Brand Name Material List (BNML). Each product on the list has submitted a Confidential Statement of Formula which has been reviewed and determined to meet the National Organic Standards found in §205.600 through §205.606.

WARNING!! Prior to using any substance in an organic operation, carefully evaluate the status of the material according to the National List and the Brand Name Material List. Some substances which were previously approved for use in organic systems are no longer approved. Use of these substances is considered the use of a prohibited material and may result in a loss of organic certification for 36 months. The National List can be found at the National Organic Program website: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/indexIE.htm>. The WSDA BNML can be found at the Organic Food Program website: <http://agr.wa.gov/foodanimal/organic/default.htm>.

Processing Aids

A processing aid is any substance used during processing that does not become an ingredient or is present at insignificant levels in the finished food product. Examples of processing aids would be defoamers, enzymes or substances used as filters. In order to be an approved substance for use in organic food products, each non-agricultural ingredient must appear on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. Allowed processing aids are listed specifically in §205.605, which provides a list of allowed natural and synthetic substances. Two defoamers have been registered as approved for use in organic food processing and are included in the Brand Name Materials List.

Post Harvest Materials

Post harvest materials must meet organic standards under §205.601 and §205.602 in order to be approved for organic production. They can include, but are not limited to, floating agents, ethylene removal products and sanitizers. The WSDA registers several post harvest materials for use in organic production. They may be found on the Brand Name Material List.

Crop Production

Organic farming is based on the use of approved materials for building soil fertility and managing insects, weeds and disease. Soil fertility may be maintained or improved through the application of natural or approved synthetic fertilizers in accordance with the National List. Specifically, §205.601 and §205.602 contain the lists allowed and prohibited materials for use in organic crop production. Most approved synthetic fertilizers have restrictions or annotations regarding their use and should be considered carefully prior to their use.

Natural or approved synthetic substances are also used for insect, weed and disease control in organic farming systems. When a preventative plan is not adequate to avert insect, weed or disease pressure, substances may be applied to control the outbreak. These substances must meet the standards for approved substances under the National List.

The National Organic Program allows the use of all natural substances unless they are specifically prohibited (e.g. strychnine and nicotine are prohibited). Conversely, synthetic substances are prohibited unless they are specifically allowed according to the National List.

Livestock

Materials approved and prohibited for use in organic livestock production can be found on the National List, §205.603 and 205.604. These include feed additives, vaccines and biologics, medications, and any other production aid used in an organic livestock system. Nonsynthetic substances are approved for use in organic livestock systems, such as herbal remedies or naturally derived enzymes. All synthetic medications are prohibited, unless specifically allowed under the National List.

Because of the variety of livestock systems, restrictions and annotation regarding approved substances are of particular importance. Prior to using a material in livestock production, evaluate the substance carefully. Verify that there no synthetic binders, colors or artificial flavors in the product. Currently, there are no brand name materials registered on the WSDA BNML for organic livestock.

For more information regarding the status of materials for use in organic production, please contact the inspector in your area or call the Olympia office at (360) 902-1805 or email at organic@agr.wa.gov.